

## Special Edition for National Farm to School Month

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# Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

October 13, 2015 | Special Edition

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

- [Announcing the Wisconsin Farm to Cafeteria Video Project - We need your help!](#)
- [Spotlight: DATCP AmeriCorps Farm to School Program](#)

## Announcing the Wisconsin Farm to Cafeteria Video Project - We need your help!



## Calling all WI Farm to Cafeteria partners – students, teachers, food service professionals, farmers, and community partners!!

We want to showcase all of the amazing farm to cafeteria work in Wisconsin at the [2016 National Farm to Cafeteria Conference](#), June 2-4, 2016 in Madison, WI, and **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Pull out your camera, tablet, or smart phone and record a short video (2 minutes or less) describing and illustrating the great farm to cafeteria work that you are doing!

Just three steps separate your school from being featured at the National Farm to Cafeteria Conference.

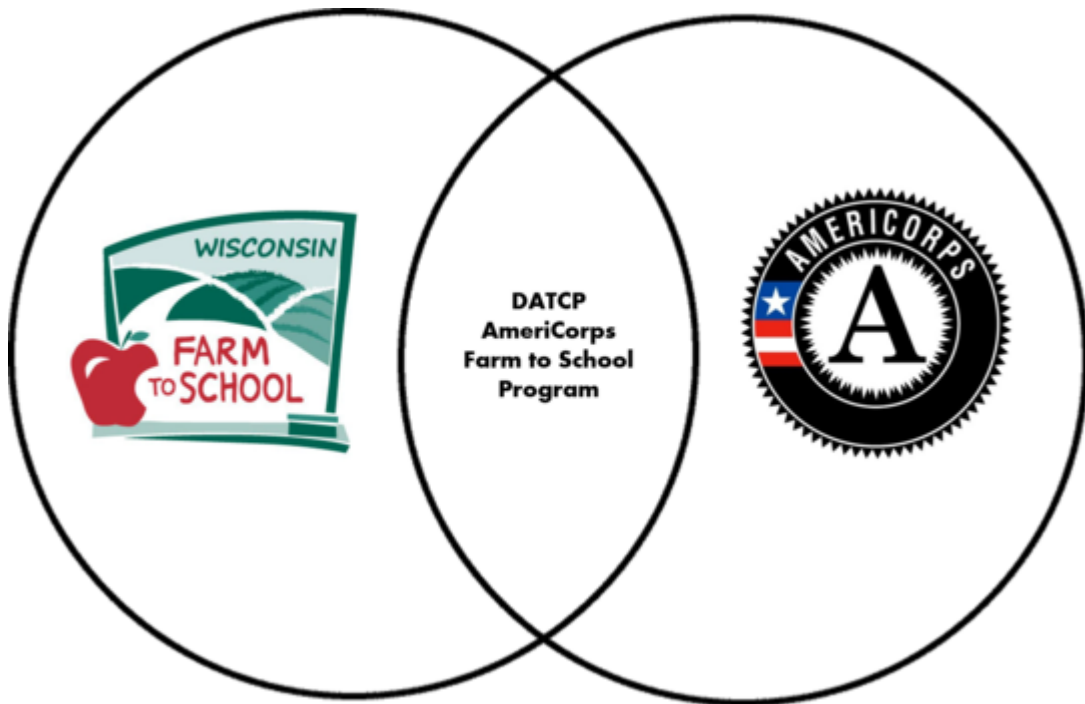
1. **Film** your favorite farmer delivering local squash, school food service staff filling the salad bar with lettuce from the school garden, or students singing about vegetables.
2. **Interview** a farm to school champion or two about how farm to school impacts your school and community. Use the questions below to help get the juices flowing:
  - What is WI farm to school?
  - Why do you love farm to school?
  - How does WI Farm to School impact your school or community?

3. **Submit film footage to Beth Hanna at [beth@communitygroundworks.org](mailto:beth@communitygroundworks.org)**

We hope to see your farm to cafeteria project on the big screen in June!

Questions? Contact Beth Hanna at [beth@communitygroundworks.org](mailto:beth@communitygroundworks.org) or 608-240-0409.

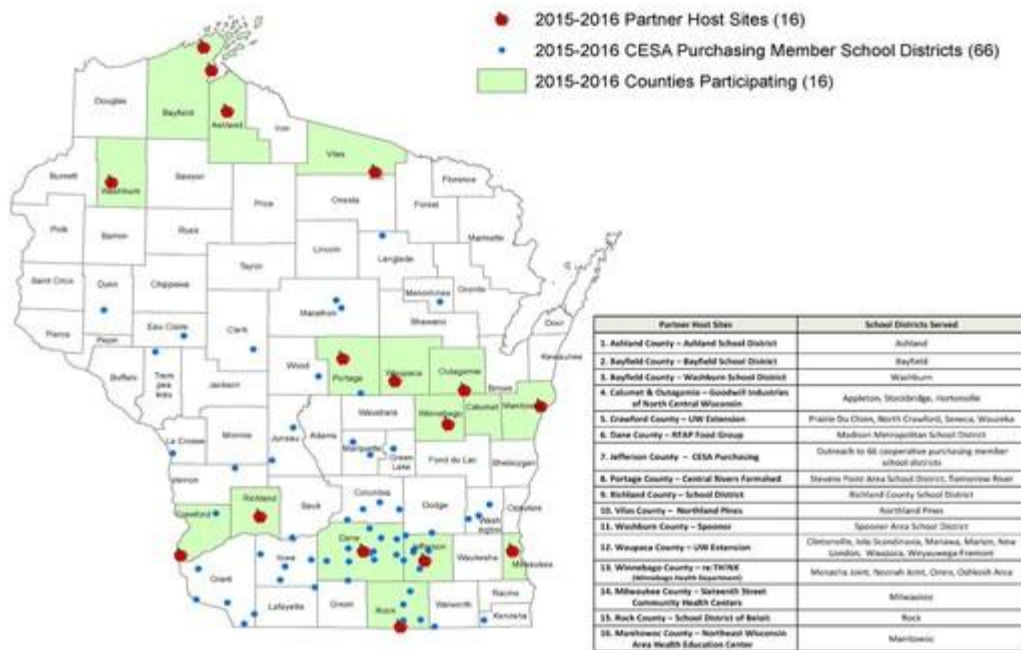
## Spotlight: DATCP AmeriCorps Farm to School Program



More than 235 school districts in Wisconsin are engaged in farm to school activities, approximately 40 of these school districts work with the DATCP AmeriCorps Farm to School Program.

Since 2008, the WI Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection has hosted the AmeriCorps Farm to School Program, made possible through funding from [Serve Wisconsin](#) and the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#).

## 2015-2016 AmeriCorps Farm-to-School Sites



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection

6/1/2015



**AmeriCorps Farm to School Goal:** The AmeriCorps Farm to School program provides an innovative approach to decreasing childhood obesity by promoting healthy eating habits in students K-12 and increasing access to local foods in schools.

### Program Elements:

- Identifies and addresses hurdles facing local food procurement in school districts while building relationships and supporting Wisconsin farmers.
- Provides nutrition education for students K-12 by developing and implementing curriculum, wellness plans, school gardens, in-class demonstrations and farm field trips.



## New Resource!

Looking for kid-tested ideas or recipes for locally-grown and raised foods? Check out the [DATCP AmeriCorps Farm to School Program 2015-2015 Tasting Cookbook!](#)

## Visit our 2015-2016 AmeriCorps host sites to learn more!



**Ashland School District:** The school district of Ashland supports over 900 elementary and middle school students in farm to school programming. The host site sponsors large school gardens, a tasting orchard, and a school forest area. Nutrition Educator, Chris Corrigan, has been working hard to procure apples for every student for this month's Great Apple Crunch. The event will include a lesson on the importance of apples to individual health and the regions'

economy, as well as an appearance by an area orchardist to discuss apple trees. Visit their [Instagram page](#).

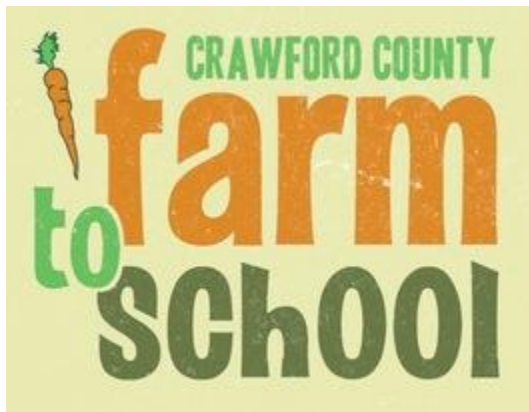
**Bayfield School District:** Our Bayfield host site sponsors over 400 students in farm to school activities. Nutrition Educator Ben Wagner, assists in maintaining a large school garden and high tunnel system as well as indoor propagation with students.



**School District of Beloit:** One of our new host sites, AmeriCorps Members Liz White and Maddy Blain will serve Beloit and surrounding areas with nutrition education, garden maintenance in their many school gardens, and growing the farm to school program through outreach and special events. They are currently hosting a farm to school poster contest with all of their elementary students, which will eventually become a school calendar.



**CESA Purchasing:** Through our host site CESA Purchasing AmeriCorps Members Michelle Escamilla and Joe Klein will serve over 60 school districts in procurement assistance, as well as offers nutrition education for the Jefferson County area schools. They will also be working to promote the **Chop! Chop!** Series with food service directors and staff.



**Crawford Co. UW Extension:** Our host site in Prairie du Chien sponsors nutrition education for all local area schools. Member Haley Mahr has procured local apples for 1,000 students at 6 area schools for the Great Apple Crunch.



**Goodwill Industries- Goodwill Grows:** AmeriCorps Members, Alissa Lick and Kristin Goetzman, offer farm to school programing to more than 900 students. Additionally, Members assist schools in growing produce in the schools through use of the Goodwill Grows Growing Machine.

**Healthiest Manitowoc County:** A new host site this year, Members Amber Daugs and Celeste Orheim, will offer farm to school programing to four local schools as well as connecting the Manitowoc Community Garden with local area schools. Northeast Wisconsin Area Health Education Center serves as the fiscal agent.



**Northland Pines School District:** AmeriCorps Members Jasmy Schmitt and Deb Jircik serve all schools in the Northland Pines School District. They work with students to maintain three school gardens and bring students in to collaborate with the local Community Garden. This site will be hosting a visit from Alice in Dairyland October 27th for a Farm to School Month event.





**REAP Food Group:** REAP is one of our longest running host sites and sponsors four Nutrition Educators- Haley Miller, Kim Mayer, Emily Blustien, and Erin Moriarty. They serve schools in the Madison Metropolitan School District. In addition to sponsoring nutrition lessons they also host multiple chef-in-the-classroom programs and procure and process healthy snacks for MMSD foodservice. They will be hosting two events for Great Apple Crunch. The first includes appearances by UW Badger athletes and local celebrities; the event on the day of the Crunch also includes a farmer visit and veggie tasting.

**Richland County School District:** AmeriCorps Member Chelsey Walters has been working hard to incorporate the community in farm to school events. She has coordinated a community corn shucking event, which benefits the schools' cafeteria, and participated in homecoming events promoting farm to school programing. This site serves schools in two other districts, in addition to the Richland School District schools, with nutrition lessons.



**Sixteenth Street Community Health Center:** A new host site this year, Members Rachel Pettit and Kate Holter, are serving Milwaukee with farm to school programing. In addition to nutrition and garden education they are connecting local growers and community health groups to area students.





**Spooner Area School District:** AmeriCorps Member Kate Curran offers nutrition education lessons to area schools from elementary to high school. She also helps maintain school gardens at each of the area schools. In addition to procuring local apples for Great Apple Crunch at the early care center in Spooner, this site will host a visit from Wisconsin Secretary of Agriculture, Ben Brancel, later in November.

**Stevens Point YMCA:**

Stevens Point area is now served through the YMCA's Wellness and Chronic Disease program. AmeriCorps Members Sarah Zdroik and Megan Ball work with schools and early childcare centers in the area to provide healthy local snacks as well as nutrition education. Their Great Apple Crunch event will feature locally procured apples, a lesson on the life cycle of the apple tree and a visit from a local farmer!





**Washburn School District:** The Washburn host site sponsors nutrition education lessons for students in all grades, as well as boasts multiple large school gardens and a well established aquaponics system. The gardens produce enough food to comprise a large part of the district's food service supplies.



**Waupaca County UW Extension:** AmeriCorps Members Jean Oberstadt and Alex Berg, bring farm to school programing to over 550 students in area schools. They have been working to expand services and establish school gardens in area early childcare centers as well.



### **Winnebago County Health**

**Department-** [re:TH!NK Winnebago:](#)

AmeriCorps Member Amanda Ross serves over 600 students in Oshkosh area schools. This host site has facilitated the introduction of 18 school salad bars and created the annual event, Cookin' It Fresh, which pairs local area chefs with teams of high school students to create healthy menu items for school lunches. The event culminates in a tasting competition open to the public

and selection of a winning dish to be used in the school lunch program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact DATCP's Sarah Elliott at 608-224-5046 or [sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov).